

City of Cincinnati



Date: November 15, 2010

To: Councilmember Leslie Ghiz
Councilmember Charlie Winburn

From: Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager *MD*

Copies: Mayor and Members of Council

Subject: Streetcar Display on Fountain Square

I am in receipt of your memo dated November 12, 2010 inquiring about the modern streetcar display that took place at Fountain Square from November 5-11.

Responses to your questions follow:

- 1) *Who made the decision to allocate Police time to guard the model streetcar on Fountain Square?*

The Police Chief made the decision to assign personnel to the south side of Fountain Square during the streetcar display. The decision was based on the recommendation of the District 1 Commander and the experience of the Police Department in dealing with similar displays and activities in the past.

- 2) *What were the specific details of the assignment for the officers who were paid taxpayer funds to guard the streetcar on Fountain Square?*

Fountain Square is routinely monitored by CPD on a daily basis by District 1 officers. Officers were directed to maintain focus on the south side of the square to assist visitors as needed, facilitate the safe movement of the many visitors, maintain the safe flow of traffic around the display, monitor any protest activity that may occur, and prevent any damage/vandalism.

- 3) *How many police officers served on these details? Please list the rank of each officer, from what district they were pulled, and whether regular time compensation or overtime was used.*

One on-duty officer from District 1 was assigned to the south side of Fountain Square for the duration of the modern streetcar display. The detail was staffed with regular, on-duty time with the exception of three on-duty officers whose normal working hours deviated from their regularly assigned working hours. Under the FOP contract, these officers were entitled to overtime compensation due to the change in their regularly assigned on-duty work hours. The total amount of overtime for these three officers

totaled \$303.49.

- 4) *Could those officers have been used in a walking detail to help prevent the fatality that occurred near Findlay Market yesterday at 1:00 PM (please see the attached article).*

The Cincinnati Enquirer article attached to your memo reports that the incident you reference took place on November 11 "just before 1 p.m." The last Fountain Square detail ended at 7:00 am on November 11. Therefore, no officers were detailed to the south side of Fountain Square at the time the incident occurred.

- 5) *Why wouldn't the City request reimbursement from the company, United Streetcar, who brought the model streetcar to Cincinnati and is vying for a \$29 million contract from City Hall?*

The decision to assign officers to the south side of Fountain Square during the streetcar display was made by the Police Chief to assist visitors as needed, facilitate the safe movement of the many visitors, maintain the safe flow of traffic around the display, monitor any protest activity that may occur, and prevent any damage/vandalism.